(c) and (d) The study has shown that the development of this waterway system for inland shipping and navigation is viable.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Presently no foreign technical assistance has been sought for.

Master Plan for National Highways

3329. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a master plan for building highways around the country have been evolved by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the plan outlay, time frame etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Highway Development Project (NHDP) comprising of 4/6 laning of the existing national highways along the East-West and North-South corridor from Silchar to Saurashtra and Srinagar to Kanyakumari respectively and the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta and Cochin-Salem spur on NH-47 has been launched. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs. 54,000 crores (at current prices) and is targeted to be completed by the year 2009.

Utilisation of Unutilised land at Kandla Port

3330. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land earmarked for Kandla port in Gujarat and the total land actually utilised by Kandla Port and other activities in the area for Central Public Sector Co-operative Undertakings;

(b) the remaining area of land lying unutilised;

(c) whether Government would support various activities relating to industrial development of this backward region and insist on land remaining idle with Kandla Port Trust; and